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**Testimony in Support of
S.B. No. 318, 'An Act Concerning Private School Transportation'**

Before the Education Committee

March 2, 2016

As a parent of students at St. Cecilia Elementary School in Stamford, I support S.B. No. 318.

St. Cecilia's has provided a nurturing and vigorous educational experience for my children. They have grown as students and as Christians. Access to bus service is critical in our daily work and life plans. A safe, secure and pleasant bus experience is a necessity to keep family life on track. Arriving to work on time without reliable bus service is challenging at best. It is critical to keep urban schools open and accessible to students whose schools have closed in neighboring towns. Please allow reimbursement to towns who voluntarily provide inter-district bus service to students. Maintaining transportation keeps the power of school choice with parents and families, where it rightfully belongs.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support S.B. No. 318.

Sincerely,

Josephine D. Marena